

POINTERS ON THE GRIP.

A Description of the Disease by One Who Has Suffered.

Ever had the grip? I will give you a few pointers. You will imagine you have a bad cold, and you can wear it out, but you need not try it. The grip has fastened his fangs onto you and will not let go. You have got to give up, go home and go to bed. In a short time you will realize Beecher's dream of hell. You will think your head has been removed and an old beehive with the empty comb left in its place. Your mouth will taste like a pail of sauerkraut. You have the grip.

The doctor comes, looks you over, puts his thermometer in your mouth, finds your temperature 104 degrees in the shade, your pulse going at the rate of two miles and three laps to the second. He orders you to stay in bed and gives you medicine that is so strong and sour that simply setting the bottle on the clock shelf stopped the clock. He will tell your wife that she may give you warm drinks and try to get you to sweat and take his leave. Now, all wives are family doctors by right of their position in the house, and as you have gone to sleep, delirious and exhausted, she begins her treatment by putting a belladonna plaster across your lungs, a flaxseed poultice on one side and a mustard poultice on the other, a hot flatiron and a jug of hot water to your feet, and a sack of boiled corn in the ear, piping hot, to your back. You sleep and dream of being away to the far north in search of the north pole or out in the center of some beautiful sheet of water, like Lake Superior or the lawn tennis skating rink, helpless and alone, with the ice breaking all around you and you slowly sinking. You finally awake, burned, blistered and baked. The doctor calls, finds your temperature about 80 degrees at the north side of the house and your pulse normal, not needing a pacemaker. He pronounces you better, convalescing; orders beef tea, chicken soup, gruel and toast as a diet. You take the big rocking chair exhausted, tired, discouraged and ugly; you feel like licking your wife, kicking the dog and breaking up the furniture, but you won't do anything but sit there day after day weak, helpless and tired.—Winona (Minn.) Herald.

Making Billiard Cushions.
The making of billiard cushions is an important industry, but is carried on by two or three firms alone, and while the story of the difficulty which has been overcome in preventing the ball from sinking into the rubber and thus destroying the angle desired to be taken is an interesting one it has been told before and will not be repeated now. In the early days of the industry the manufacturer employed valve rubber and obtained a much better price for it when it was worked up into the cushion.

Then the cushion maker set his wits to work to get the valve rubber cheaply, but in those days it was strongly held, and none was allowed to pass to that industry unless it paid the enhanced royalty. Finally the combination was broken by a firm in Pittsburgh ordering the valve rubber ostensibly for ordinary use, but shipping it back to New York for the intended purpose. So skillfully and patiently was this done that a great quantity was accumulated, and the valve rubber man threw up the sponge. Now billiard cushions are made of molded rubber, an evolution which came along later.—Hard-ware.

La Fontaine's Opinion of Himself.
"La Fontaine," said one of the most brilliant critics and wits of the famous fabulist's time, "is such a fool that he does not know he has more genius than Aesop or Phaedrus."

In truth, he was a severe critic of his own work. He attended the first presentation of his "Astree," and sat near some ladies who did not know him. At some of the important passages he exclaimed: "That is wretched! That is absurd!"
When they protested that it was good, and that it was by the great La Fontaine, he rejoined: "That makes no difference. The piece is bad. I know that La Fontaine is speaking of. He's a stupid fellow. He's myself."

Then he went out, entered a cafe and went to sleep in a corner. Some of his friends found him there and inquired why he wasn't listening to "Astree."
"Oh," said the author, rousing himself and stifling a yawn, "I just came away. The first part displeased me greatly. No one agreed with what I said about it, but I didn't care to hear more. I admire the patience of the Parisians."—Youth's Companion.

Gambling.
A considerable proportion of failure in business and 90 per cent of the defalcations and theft and ruin of youth among people who are employed in places of trust are due directly to gambling. I have seen in my vast employment so much misery from the head of the family neglecting its support, and squandering his earnings in the lottery or the policy shop, and promising young men led astray in a small way, and finally becoming fugitives or landing in the criminal dock, that I have come to believe that the community which licenses and tolerates public gambling cannot have prosperity in business, religion in its churches or morality among its people.—Chauncey Depew.

Coyote and Eagle.
W. C. Plummer of Pineville once witnessed an exciting fight between an eagle and a coyote. The eagle had caught a rabbit, and the coyote undertook to take it away from him. The eagle defended his prey manfully for some time, but the coyote was too much for him and finally got away with the rabbit, but not until after the eagle had clawed several handfuls of hair out of his back and left him somewhat disfigured.—Portland Oregonian.



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